

Minutes
West Lafayette Historic Preservation Commission
Morton Community Center
222 N. Chauncey Avenue
West Lafayette, IN 47906
September 9, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Chris Kulesza, President, who presided.

Present: Susan Curtis, Chris Kulesza, Persis Newman, Arnold Sweet, Chandler Poole, Kurt Wahl, Erin Britton

Absent: Peter Bunder, Kelly Busch, Jim Sondgeroth, Linda Martin

By unanimous consent President Kulesza asked to add, after Approval of the September 9, 2015 Minutes, to discuss the letter that went out. President Kulesza would like to have an “updates” section from staff before Public Comment in the agenda beginning tonight and moving forward. Commissioner Curtis moved to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Newman seconded. All approved.

Commissioner Curtis moved to approve the September 9, 2015 Minutes. Commissioner Newman seconded. All approved.

Letter Discussion

Director of Development Chandler Poole spoke regarding the mistake that was made in sending out the incorrect letter regarding the Historic District.

President Kulesza requested that a version of the letter that went out gets sent via email to the Commissioners so that they can see what the residents of the neighborhood saw.

Commissioner Curtis stated that the New Chauncey Neighborhood Association has a meeting scheduled for this Thursday. She suggested that copies of the correct letter be available for the residents to take if they'd like. She will be going to that meeting with letters and pass them out. Mr. Poole stated copies would be ready at his office for her to pick up.

Certified Local Government

The Commission discussed this topic. Becoming a Certified Local Government (CLG) has several requirements, including, having a particular make-up of people, going to annual training sessions, etc. They also require bylaws to be created for the particular commission. There is also a requirement to have access to staff, such as a specific Historic Preservation Officer. This would require appropriations from the City Council. This process will be lengthy and will require working with the City Council. Commissioner Curtis mentioned that if the Commission goes through the steps and gets this approved, it will open the doors for the Commission to carry out its mission with resources that don't come just from the City of West Lafayette, such as grants (Commissioner Britton has experience writing grants). President Kulesza believes the

most important thing would be having a staff member available for them. Mr. Poole stated they could possibly budget at some point to have a “hired-gun” that they could call upon when needed.

President Kulesza would like to get a sub-committee together so that bylaws can be created for the Commission. He’s looked at by-laws from several communities and found great bylaws. He’d like the subcommittee to bring the draft to the HPC meeting in February. Commissioner Curtis and Commissioner Sweet agreed to sit on the subcommittee with President Kulesza.

Project Updates

Old School House on 231 – This property is owned by the Sisters of St. Francis and they will be building a hospital on the property. Construction is planned to happen, but not scheduled. Mr. Poole had an estimate on moving the house and it would cost about \$300,000. Currently, the city doesn’t have the funds to take care of that. Commissioner Curtis stated that Kristina Bross may have been in contact with Mr. Poole regarding this house. She has been in touch with a landscape architect at Purdue who is interested in approaching the hospital to see if they would be interested in seeing a sketch in what a landscape architect could do with the house while leaving it where it is. Money would have to come from some place, but possibly less money than it would cost to move it. Mr. Poole stated that the Sisters have stated that they don’t want it on their property. There is no money budgeted in 2016 for this project.

306 E. Stadium – This is a mid-century modern house that was purchased by a young couple who are trying to renovate it. They did a car port that is not architecturally accurate. This will need to go in front of the COA Committee. There are some things they can do to bring it into compliance. Kurt reminded Mr. Poole that the owners will need to get their application in on time.

468 Littleton – They want to build a garage. They are going in front of the BZA for a variance. They won’t do any drawings or pull any permits until they can get the variance. The garage will be in the back and to the left of the house. They’ll get plans and diagrams with the building permit.

Kurt Wahl mentioned he didn’t see the COA Application on the website.

Public Comment – None.

Arnold Sweet brought up a natural spring that is at the end of Hollowood and thought it would be nice to try to get that water into a fountain in Happy Hollow Park if possible.

Commissioner Curtis motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Newman seconded. Motion was approved unanimous and the Commission adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Kelly Busch, Secretary